

I Claim:

1. A utility lighter comprising a lighter housing, a lighting rod projecting from the lighter housing, a fuel tank, a valve for releasing fuel from said tank, a gas tube connected to the valve and extending through the lighting rod, an ignition unit for generating a spark, and a safety mechanism comprising:

a trigger mounted in said lighter housing and said trigger having an exterior surface capable of being engaged by a user, said trigger also having an interior portion positioned substantially within said lighter, said interior portion having a stopper tab;

a locking lever having a top surface with at least a first elevation and a second elevation, said locking lever secured within said housing to project toward said interior portion of said trigger, said locking lever biased in a position capable of engaging said stopper tab to prevent said trigger from sliding a sufficient distance to engage said ignition unit;

a safety button mounted on said housing and capable of moving in a substantially parallel but opposite direction to said trigger;

said safety button having a contact surface, a fuel release segment and a unlocking segment;

said contact surface capable of manipulation by a user so that said fuel release segment opens said valve to release fuel while the unlocking segment substantially and simultaneously moves from a first position in which it is in contact with said first elevation of said locking lever to a second position in which the

fuel release segment is in contact with said second elevation of  
said locking lever whereby said locking lever is caused to move  
out of interference with the stopper tab permitting said  
activation of said ignition unit by said trigger to ignite the  
5 fuel being released from said valve.